



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

Testimony of
State Representative Peter Villano
Wednesday March 7, 2012
In support of SB 261
An Act Concerning Natureopathic Medicine

Honorable Terry Gerratana, Honorable Elizabeth Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee:

I wish to express me strong support for Senate Bill 261 and urge its approval for the following reasons:

Here in Connecticut a naturopathic physician can draw blood, do pap smears, physical exams, order imagery such as CAT scans or MRI but cannot prescribe, vaccinate or administer vitamin B12 injections.

Naturopathic physicians are currently able to diagnose B-12 deficiency but under current law are required to refer such patients to an M.D. for B-12 injections. This requires two office visits by the patient and related costs.

This bill would correct that shortcoming by identifying vitamin B-12 as a "natural substance" in statute thus adding such treatment to the practice.

As you will learn from other speakers, but worth mentioning here, B-12 injections are used to safely increase vitamin levels for certain gastrointestinal conditions, various digestive diseases, and other conditions.

Approving SB 261 will put Connecticut on a path to join Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and 13 other states that license naturopathic doctors to include IV injection in the scope of practice.

Thank you for your consideration.